This Week in The Chronicle

July 8, 1992

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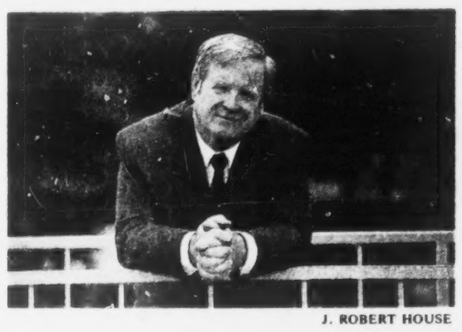

J. ROBERT HOUSE

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MARGINALIA

Memorandum at the University of Southern California:

"Recently, a letter was mailed which requested additional support for KUSC. The letterhead listed the names of several composers. To our embarrassment, four of those names were misspelled: Stravinsky, Leonarda, Tailleferre, and Vaughan Williams.

"These errors did not originate at KUSC. They occurred when the copy was transferred from our word processing program to a program at one of the University of Sourthern California's printing facilities. In order to insure that these problems would not be repeated, we have established new procedures for proofreading."

Too late!

■

From *Employee Development Update*, a newsletter at the University of California at Riverside, comes this announcement of a workshop for staff members:

"Writing for Impact (Afternoons) . . . For most of us, writing is a critial form of communication. Good writing is often synonymous with effective and efficient work. . . .

Tell us more.

■

Memorandum at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale:

"The General Education Committee is beginning to study the problem of addressing 'cultural pluralism' in the SIUC general education curriculum. To that end, the Committee needs some basic university-wide information concerning the cultural adversity of the university's faculty and students. . . ."

You really want to know?

■

Notice to student advisers at a college or university whose identity we have mislaid:

"Do you have an advisee who is looking for another course this term?

"If so, History 238, U. S. 1945-1990, meeting 10-11 MTTHF in OM 34 is open. (Note: due to an oversight, this course did not appear in the original schedule.)

"Readings will focus on the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, the Great Society, Watergate, feminism, environmentalism, the impact of mass media, and most important of all, the rise and demise of disco.

"Prerequisites: one history class, and some awareness of the term 'leisure suit.' "

■

News from *The Utah Statesman:*

"To make people more aware of alternatives to driving themselves home when they're drunk, coupons will be given to students Friday so those 'partying on Friday night can get a free home,' said Smith."

Tell Smith we already have one.

—C.G.

In Brief

Harvard law professor loses his post

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.—Adhering to a longstanding policy, Harvard University has denied a black law-school professor's request to extend his two-year leave of absence.

Derrick Bell, the school's first black tenured professor, began an unpaid leave of absence in 1990 to protest the school's failure to hire a tenured "woman of color." In a letter, Robert C. Clark, the school's dean, told Mr. Bell that his failure to return would be considered a resignation, effective last week.

In a statement, Mr. Clark said he was "very saddened" by Mr. Bell's decision not to return to teaching. "I wish he had chosen otherwise," the statement said.

Mr. Bell, who is a visiting professor at New York University's law school, can appeal the decision to a Harvard governing board. He could not be reached for comment. A complaint Mr. Bell filed against the school with the U. S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights is pending.

After his departure, 68 professors remain at the school. Seven are white women, five are black men, and the rest are white men. ■

NICK SOUZA

Earthquake sends books tumbling in California libraries

RIVERSIDE, CAL. — Southern California was jolted by a severe earthquake and more than 1,000 aftershocks, but damage to colleges and universities was minimal because the epicenter was in a sparsely populated desert area. The libraries at the University of California campus here and two community colleges were closed temporarily for cleanup and repairs after thousands of books tumbled from the shelves during the first earthquake. About 14,000 books were knocked off the shelves of the Tomás Rivera Library at Riverside, including about 4,000 rare volumes in a special-collections section (*above*), some of which were damaged. Workers had just finished installing seismic bracing on the shelves, which prevented more extensive damage. ■

Churches oppose merger of Hawaii institutions

HONOLULU—Hawaii Loa College and Hawaii Pacific University are expected to go through with a planned merger this month despite a lawsuit intended to block the move.

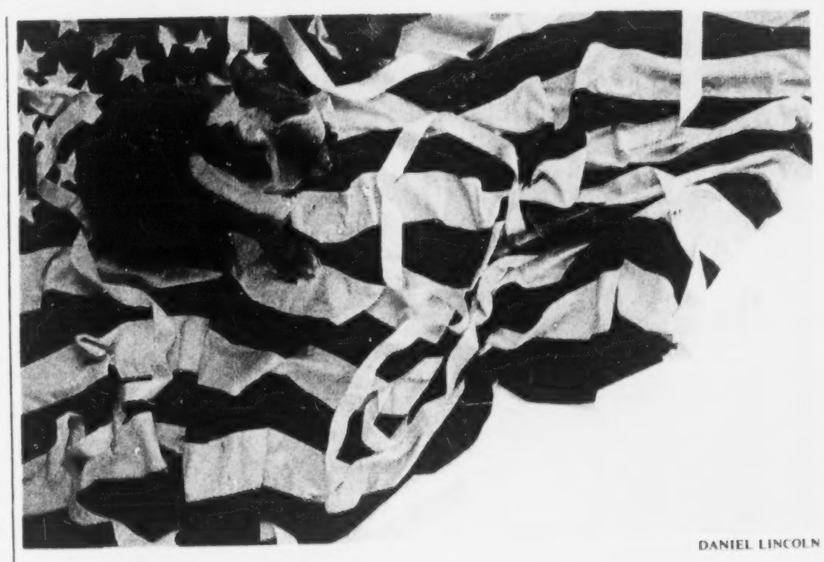
Three of the four Protestant churches that helped to found Hawaii Loa (*below*) 29 years ago filed a lawsuit in June, claiming that they had not been consulted about the merger and had serious concerns about how it would affect the institution.

The merger would result in one institution on two campuses under the Hawaii Pacific name. Hawaii Pacific is not affiliated with any religious organization.

The merger was scheduled to take place July 1, but was delayed when the churches sought a preliminary injunction from the court barring the move until their lawsuit went to trial. The injunction was denied and no trial date was set.

The churches—the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Presbyterian Church—claim they have a stake in the college. They say they have given $2.5-million to Hawaii Loa since its founding and have forgiven some of its mortgage loans.

The fourth founding denomination, the Episcopal Church, is not contesting the merger. ■



DANIEL LINCOLN

Yearbook editor denied post in photo flap

LAFAYETTE, LA.—Jeff Gremillion, last year's editor of the University of Southwestern Louisiana's yearbook, has been denied a second term because administrators disapproved of controversial pictures in the yearbook.

The book, *L'Acadien*, featured a photograph of a partly nude woman. It also has a section devoted to the Persian Gulf war, illustrated with a picture of a bulldog, the university mascot, sitting on the American flag (*above*).

A faculty-student committee recommended to the vice-president for student affairs that Mr. Gremillion be appointed editor of the book again this coming year. The choice was rejected. A university spokeswoman said the institution had received many complaints about the yearbook and that Mr. Gremillion had not been rehired because the university disapproved of his judgment. An editorial in the student newspaper was sharply critical of the university's decision. ■

ALLAN SEIDEN

Corrections

■ A story on taxol (*The Chronicle*, May 20) referred to Lester A. Mitscher as a professor at the University of Kansas but subsequently called him, incorrectly, Kansas State's Mr. Mitscher.

■ An item in the People in Athletics column (*The Chronicle*, June 24) incorrectly identified the institution that Thomas J. O'Connor is leaving to become athletics director at Saint Bonaventure University. He is now director of athletics at Santa Clara University. ■

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Athletics

Sidelines

College basketball coaches hope that a new leader and a new address can breathe new life into the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which has been seeking more control over their intercollegiate sport.

James A. Haney, the commissioner of the Big West Conference since 1988, will become executive director of the coaches' association this summer. Joseph R. Vancisin, the current director of the 4,000-member group, announced his retirement last year.

Mr. Haney was chosen after George Raveling, a vice-president of the NABC's Board of Directors and the favorite for the post, turned down the job in April. Mr. Raveling, the widely respected men's coach at the University of Southern California, decided to stay with the Trojans.

Before Mr. Haney takes over, the NABC plans to move its headquarters from Branford, Conn., to Kansas City, Kan., to be closer to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which is based in a Kansas City suburb. The coaches' group is also planning to expand its two-person staff.

Mr. Haney said the move was intended to put the NABC "closer to the heart of the decision-making" process of the NCAA.

The coaches have been frustrated in recent years because they feel they have been excluded from important decisions about their sport. Their concerns have focused particularly on the NCAA's 1991 cutbacks in scholarships, season lengths, and the size of coaching staffs.

Mr. Haney, who has experienced frustrations of his own in the Big West Conference—including last year's loss of one of the league's most successful members, California State University at Fresno—said he was ready to tackle tough issues at the NABC.

"We can turn challenges into opportunities here, too" he said.

■

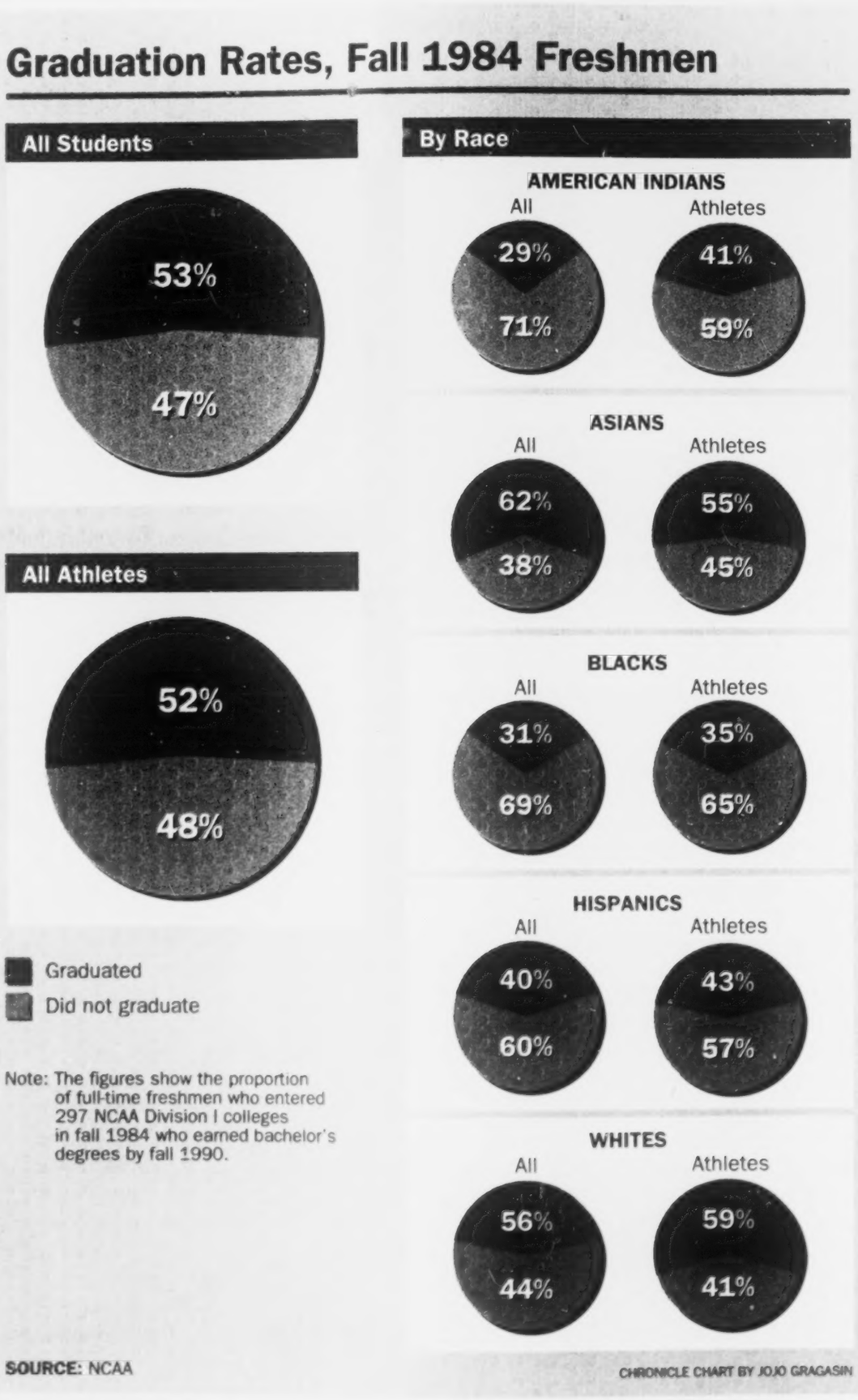
Brooklyn College of the City University of New York has eliminated its athletics program as part of a $5.4-million budget cut the university system asked the college to make nearly two months ago.

The move, which affects 15 teams and 171 athletes, is expected to save as much as $260,000 in state funds, according to a college spokesman. He said the college, which has been in Division I of the NCAA for almost a decade, could not afford to sponsor even a scaled-down program, such as one in Division II.

But some observers say the move was also motivated by what they say is the administration's embarrassment over recent findings that the college discriminated against its female athletes and coaches.

In February, the college assured the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights that its athletics program would be in compliance with federal sex-equity laws by September.

Black Athletes Graduate at a Higher Rate Than Other Blacks, NCAA Reports



Note: The figures show the proportion of full-time freshmen who entered 297 NCAA Division I colleges in fall 1984 who earned bachelor's degrees by fall 1990.

Study is first to include breakdowns by race

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

Black scholarship athletes who entered Division I colleges in 1984 graduated at a higher rate than all full-time black students at those institutions, a study by the National Collegiate Athletic Association has found.

But black athletes were far less likely than athletes of other races to earn their degrees within six years, the NCAA report shows. Thirty-five per cent of the black athletes had graduated by the summer of 1990, compared with 31 per cent of all black students and 59 per cent of white athletes.

Over all, 52 per cent of all Division I scholarship athletes graduated within six years, compared with 51 per cent of all full-time students at those institutions.

The NCAA study, released last week, contained the association's first-ever breakdown of graduation rates by race. The data were collected in response to a federal law requiring colleges to make public the graduation rates of their athletes and other students by race, sex, and sport.

Applause From Senator Bradley

One sponsor of that legislation, Sen. Bill Bradley, a New Jersey Democrat, applauded the NCAA for beginning to release the information even before the law takes effect next year.

Last week the NCAA released overall averages for 297 Division I colleges; the institution-by-institution breakdown will not be available until late this month or early next month.

Like the graduation-rates survey that the NCAA released last year, last week's report focuses on the entering class of 1984. The new report, however, follows

Continued on Following Page

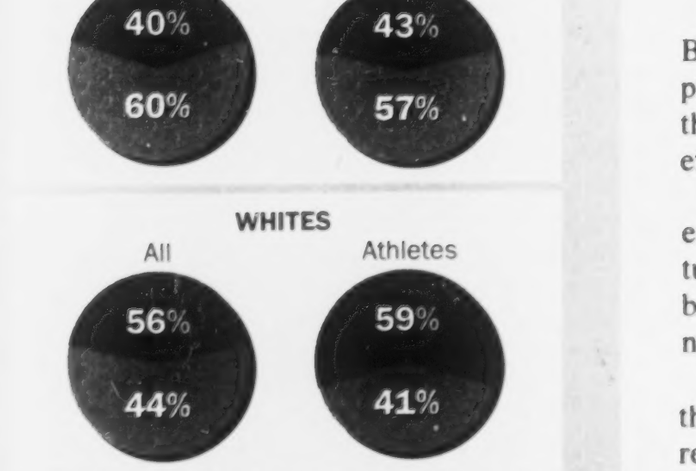
7 Big Ten Universities Exceed NCAA Scholarship Limits

Seven universities in the Big Ten Conference have exceeded National Collegiate Athletic Association scholarship limits for several years because of confusion about the NCAA's financial-aid rules, league officials admitted last month.

On the colleges' behalf, the conference has offered to have the institutions forgo a total of about three dozen scholarships over two years in such sports as wrestling and swimming.

Officials at several of the conference's universities are privately furious at the league, which they blame for the misunderstanding. They complain that Big Ten officials assured them that by following a conference financial-aid policy that was in effect through 1991, they also were obeying NCAA rules. In reality, they found, the two-decade-old Big Ten policy conflicted with the association's rules.

The controversy centers on scholarship rules in "equivalency" sports—those in which one athletic scholarship can be divided among several athletes. All Division I sports except football, men's and women's basketball, and women's gymnastics, tennis, and volleyball fall into that category.



In equivalency sports, colleges may divide the maximum number of permissible scholarships among as many athletes as they wish. In men's golf, for instance, a college has five scholarships to divide among any number of team members.

The contested Big Ten policy, which the conference ended last year when the problem was first identified, permitted an institution to calculate the amount of scholarship aid it could give based on what it charges an out-of-state athlete for tuition, fees, room and board, and books, even if the college was charging the athlete at the in-state rate.

Waiver for Out-of-Staters

Many institutions provide a waiver that allows out-of-state athletes to pay in-state rates; the athletics program pays the tuition of athletes on scholarship; and the university picks up the rest of the tab out of its general funds.

For example, University A awarded five

Continued on Following Page

Graduation Rates of Athletes Reported in Study

Continued From Preceding Page
the athletes over a six-year period instead of five years, as previous NCAA studies did.

The new format also includes more information than previous NCAA reports. Besides the groundbreaking data on race, it offers information about two entering classes (1983-84 as well as 1984-85), instead of just one class as past studies have done.

It also provides a "refined" graduation rate, which includes in the denominator athletes who transferred to a college and excludes those who left the institution in good standing. That was done to accommodate officials who complained that colleges should not be held accountable for

"The perception out there is that athletes are way down here, that they're just not graduating. That's not the case."

athletes who may have transferred to and graduated from other institutions.

"Should an institution be penalized for a student going to another institution and graduating?" said Sara N. McNabb, assistant vice-president for enrollment services at Indiana University, and chairwoman of the NCAA committee that prepared the graduation-rates report. "I'm not sure it should."

But Ms. McNabb also noted that no comparable "refined" rate was available for students who are not athletes, and hence no comparison existed for the adjusted rate.

Virtually all institutions showed marked increases using the refined rate. Over all in Division I, the refined rate was about 15 percentage points higher than the unadjusted rate.

1 Million Students Covered

The NCAA data on the graduation rates of athletes by race are certain to attract significant attention, because of the intense public interest in sports.

The association's newest report also provides some of the best and most up-to-date information now available about the graduation rates of full-time students at many of the country's biggest and most prestigious institutions. The association's survey covers a total of over 1 million students who entered Division I colleges in 1983-84 and 1984-85.

Among other things, it shows that Asian students outpaced other students at the 297 Division I colleges, with the entering class of 1984 graduating at a rate of 62 per cent. White students were next at 56 per cent, followed by "other" students (international and unidentified students) at 48 per cent, Hispanic students at 40 per cent, black students at 31 per cent, and American Indian students at 29 per cent.

Women generally outperformed men, with 54 per cent of all female students graduating, compared to 51 per cent of all men. Asians were most likely among both male and female students to get their degrees in six years: Asian men graduated at a rate of 60 per cent and Asian women at a rate of 64 per cent.

American Indian, black, Hispanic, and white women all graduated at higher rates than did their male counterparts. Only in the "other" category were men slightly more likely to graduate than women.

Breakdowns for 6 Sports

The NCAA study provides much more detail about the graduation rates of athletes than of other students. It includes separate breakdowns for six sports, as well as the refined rates for each one.

Richard D. Schultz, executive director of the NCAA, said in releasing the report that he was "pleasantly surprised" by the results, which showed athletes generally had performed as well as their peers, or better. Mr. Schultz noted that the athletes included in the survey entered college before Proposition 48, the freshman-eligibility standards that require underprepared athletes to sit out a year, took effect in 1986.

"The perception out there is that athletes are way down here, that they're just not graduating," he said. "That's not the case."

Mr. Schultz also said, however, that athletes in every sport should graduate at a higher rate than other students, since they tend not to have the same financial pressures that force many students out of college. Athletes are also encouraged to earn their degrees within five years, Mr. Schultz said, by the NCAA rule that requires them to complete their four years of eligibility within five consecutive years. Athletes also tend to receive intensive tutoring that is not generally available to other students.

Among other highlights of the NCAA report:

- Athletes of every race except Asian were more likely to graduate than were other students of their race.
- Female athletes of every race did much better than their male counterparts. Over all, female athletes who entered Division I colleges in 1984 graduated at a rate of 62 per cent, while 47 per cent of male athletes earned degrees.
- Athletes in baseball, men's track, and especially men's basketball lagged behind their peers. Men's basketball players in Division I graduated at a rate of 38 per cent, with black players the lowest at 29 per cent. Black male basketball players at universities in Division I-A, the NCAA's top competitive level for football, graduated at a rate of 23 per cent.
- Athletes who entered the 106 universities in Division I-A in 1984 fared worse compared to their nonathlete peers than did other Division I athletes. Scholarship athletes in I-A graduated at a rate of 52 per cent, compared to 56 per cent of all students at their colleges. ■

7 Women Sue U. of Texas, Demanding Varsity Teams

By DEBRA E. BLUM

Taking what their lawyer called the "offensive" in support of women's sports, seven female students at the University of Texas at Austin sued the institution last week, asking that four women's varsity teams be added to the athletics program.

The suit differs from other recent sex-discrimination cases in college athletics in that the Texas students are seeking new teams, not trying to save old teams from the budgetary chopping block. The suit asks that four women's sports—crew, gymnastics, soccer, and softball—be elevated to varsity status.

"This is not a defensive legal action where we are trying to hang on to what we have," said Diane Henson, the students' lawyer. "This is a major offensive move in the fight for gender equity."

The class-action suit was filed in federal court last week by seven female students at Texas who participate either on the club teams in crew, gymnastics, or soccer, or who play intramural slow-pitch softball.

The suit claims that the university, by not providing more varsity-level sports to women, is unfairly denying female students "tangible benefits that [it] disproportionately affords to male students."

The athletics program, the lawsuit claims, violates the U.S. and the Texas Constitutions and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the federal law barring sex discrimination in institutions that receive federal aid.

Jody Conradt, the university's director of women's athletics, said she could not comment on the suit because she had not yet seen it.

She did say, however, that while Texas had made a "tremendous commitment" to women's athletics, the proportion of female participants in the sports program versus male participants is "problematic" at Texas, as it is at many other institutions.

Texas offers seven teams each for men and women, but the athletics program includes more than 300 men and fewer than 100 women. About 53 per cent of the undergraduates at Texas are men and 47 per cent are women.

The lawsuit is expected to attract national attention because Texas is widely known for its strong and successful women's athletics program.

Donna A. Lopiano, the former director of women's athletics at Austin, who is now the executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, said in a statement that the university had treated female athletes in every sport as well as it treated its football players. But, she said, more teams need to be added.

Suit Against Colorado State

In other legal action, six former softball players at Colorado State University have sued the institution, claiming it discriminated against female athletes when it cut the softball program for budgetary reasons.

Colorado State canceled the baseball and softball programs last month to help the institution alleviate a $600,000 deficit in the athletics program.

The suit, filed in federal court, seeks a permanent injunction to prevent the university from dropping softball. The suit says that canceling softball violates Title IX and the state constitution by further exacerbating inequities already present in the intercollegiate athletics program.

Colorado State fields teams in eight women's sports and seven men's sports. Last year's budget was $998,000 for women and almost $3.8-million for men. ■

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7 Big Ten Universities Found to Exceed NCAA Limits on Sports Scholarships

Continued From Preceding Page
scholarships in men's golf, at its out-of-state rate of $10,000 each, for a total of $50,000. But the university charged the five athletes the in-state tuition rate, say $6,000, for a total of $30,000. The university then spent the extra $20,000 on scholarships for other athletes in that sport.

Role in Setting Policy

Big Ten officials said they had been under the impression that the league policy conformed to NCAA regulations.

"I'm not sure how this could happen, given the fact that Big Ten members always have played such a big role in NCAA policy setting, but it did," James E. Delany, the league's commissioner, told *The Des Moines Register* last week. Mr. Delany was out of his office last week and could not be reached. Other Big Ten officials said they would not comment further on the issue.

However, officials at the association and sports administrators at several other NCAA colleges said they believed that the association's rules were clear on the subject.

Last month, the Pacific-10 Conference levied harsh penalties against Washington State University, which violated the NCAA's financial-aid rules in a similar way.

—DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

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Quote, Unquote

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"Nervous 18-year-olds with automatic weapons make me nervous."
An American archaeologist, on the perils of working in Peru: A6

"All of these controversies are by design to dilute the African-American leadership. There is a move afoot by the political factions in states where you have black colleges to phase them out."
A civil-rights activist in Kentucky, on proposals to merge black and white institutions: A21

"The computer is one of the most liberating and empowering technologies to come along in a long time for people with a variety of handicaps."
A Rochester Institute of Technology history professor, who is blind: A18

"The images caused the manuscript to crash and burn through university presses."
The author of "Gay Ideas," on censorship at university presses: A44

"We are presiding over the era of the permanent institutionalization of the field—or its failure. It's crunch time."
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., on black studies: A13

"The lesson learned here is a costly one: If you stand up for your principles, follow the law, and win massively, you lose totally."
An advocate for women's sports, on Brooklyn College's decision to drop its program: A37

"We just made some money working hard, and I'd like to see it do some good in the world."
Henry M. Rowan, who, with his wife, gave $100-million to Glassboro State College: A27

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